

REMARKS

In the pending Office Action, Examiner Kim made a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between two identified groups of claims, which were characterized as follows:

I. Claims 1-31 and 38-67, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 606, subclass 103.

II. Claims 32-37, drawn to a method, classified in class 606, subclass 86.

The language above is taken verbatim from the Office Action for the sake of clarity and accuracy and is not intended as an admission of any sort by Applicants as to the subject matter or classification of any claim.

As Examiner Kim's restriction requirement relied on the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121, which makes restriction permissive, per standard PTO practice noted in MPEP 803 and 808.02 this application should be examined as a whole if it can be done without undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants elect group I (claims 1-31 and 38-67) for prosecution, with traverse on the grounds that searching and examining the entire application can be made without serious burden. For example, claims 1 and 32 share some aspects, including a shaft, a plate pivotably connected to the shaft and a slidable sleeve. Accordingly, searching and consideration of references regarding one set of claims will thus be identical or at least overlap to a great extent. Put another way, most or all of the references, if any, that are relevant to one set of claims will likely be relevant to the other set of claims. Since the research and analysis effort required for examining one set of claims will be essentially the same as for examining both sets of claims, it is respectfully submitted that there will be no significant extra burden in searching and examining both sets of claims. Per MPEP 803 and 808.02, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and all pending claims should be examined.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial No. 10/789,610

Attorney Docket: 4002-3438

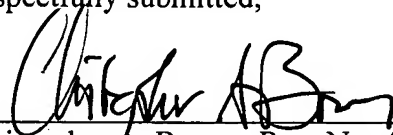
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Furthermore, Examiner Kim noted an irregularity in the specification, and required correction. Applicants disagree with the examiner's comments to the extent he suggested there to be two separate specifications filed in this case. On reviewing the application as filed, it appears that through a word processing error material in the specification was included twice. Following the directions of 37 CFR 1.121(a)(1)(i), the instruction is given above to delete the paragraphs on specification pages 31-39 from the application, without prejudice to reinserting them into this or a continuing application at a later time.

In responding to this Office Action, Applicants have not amended any claim, and do not intend to limit the scope of pending or later-offered claims. The claims in this application are intended to have their full scope, including equivalents, available under the patent laws.

In conclusion, Applicants have provisionally elected claims 1-31 and 38-67 of this application, with traverse, in response to the present restriction requirement. The Applicants have also deleted from the specification pages 31-39. It is respectfully requested that Examiner Kim reconsider the present restriction requirement and withdraw it as well as delete the aforementioned pages from the specification. An Office Action toward a Notice of Allowance in this case is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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